



## **News Release**

**For Immediate Release:**  
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### **Emergency Medical Services Week – There When You Need Us**

(Salt Lake City, UT) – Emergency Medical Services (EMS) professionals throughout the state met today to recognize their colleague's outstanding and courageous efforts and to kick off National EMS Week in Utah. Awards were presented to individuals and EMS teams who distinguished themselves through their dedicated service and heroic efforts.

“EMS professionals are ready and willing to respond 24 hours a day, 7 days a week regardless of whether they are paid employees or volunteers,” said Jan Buttrey, EMS program manager, Utah Department of Health (UDOH). “This year's EMS Week theme, 'EMS: There When You Need Us,' emphasizes the fact that our every day EMS heroes have always been, and will continue to be there when we need them.”

A prime example of this theme took place on October 4, 2004, when a single engine, four-seat aircraft struck the side of a mountain 50 miles west of Salt Lake City. Two of the passengers were killed on impact. The pilot, despite severe injuries, was able to make cell phone contact with Tooele County Dispatch. Police, ambulance, first responders, search and rescue, BLM and the University of Utah Medical Center's AirMed helicopter started to search for the downed aircraft.

Quick thinking by the Tooele County Dispatcher included a call to Hill Air Force Base to see if any of the air wings were training in the west desert. A pair of F-16s from the 419<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing were training that day and were sent to the area to assist in the search. The F-16s located the wreckage on the Cedar Mountains at approximately 7,800 feet. With the quick action of the Tooele County Dispatch Center, the immediate response by the U.S. Air Force's 419<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing and the help provided by all the responding agencies, the pilot and his wife were rescued. This is one of the many examples of the heroic EMS professionals who are there when needed.

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The following award recipients were nominated and selected by their EMS peers:

**Outstanding performance - emergency medical incident**

Cindee Paulsen and Wendy Brimhall, Dispatchers, Clearfield Police and Fire Departments  
Kevin Lloyd and Gordon Larsen, EMTs, Clearfield City Fire Department  
Scott Harper and Tom Talon, Paramedics, Davis County Sheriff's Office

**Outstanding performance - emergency pediatric incident**

Barbara Hirschi, Dispatcher, Iron County Ambulance Service  
Sonia Holt, Bob Bang, Sue Bang, EMTs, Iron County Ambulance Service  
Mary Ann Rhodes, Paramedic, Iron County Ambulance Service

**Outstanding performance - air medical incident and emergency medical dispatch incident**

Tooele County Sheriff's Communication Division, Search & Rescue and Sheriff's Office  
University of Utah Medical Center AirMed  
Bureau of Land Management  
Utah Department of Public Safety  
Utah Parks and Recreation  
Hill Air Force Base 419th Fighter Wing, U.S. Air Force

**Search and Rescue Incident of the Year**

Emery County Search and Rescue

**Emergency Physician of the Year**

Mark Bair, M.D.

**Emergency Medical Technician of the Year**

Kris Shields, Millard County EMS Area Coordinator

**Emergency Medical Dispatcher of the Year**

Gladys Coomes, Utah County Sheriff's Office

**Paramedic of the Year**

Kent Taylor, Ogden Fire Department

**Distinguished Service Award**

Robert Peters, University of Utah Medical Center, AirMed

**Instructor of the Year 2004**

Sharleen Manzione, Dispatcher, Tooele County Sheriff's Office

EMS Week is presented by the UDOH's Bureau of Emergency Medical Services in cooperation with many other EMS agencies.

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*The mission of the Utah Department of Health is to protect the public's health through preventing avoidable illness, injury, disability and premature death, assuring access to affordable, quality health care, and promoting healthy lifestyles.*